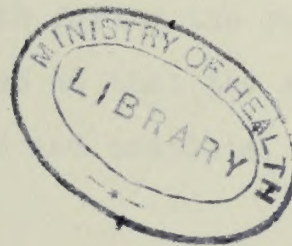


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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1954.

*Aboushaw*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





1.

Public Health Department.

Town Hall,

BRIERFIELD.

May 1955.

To the Chairman and Members,  
BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

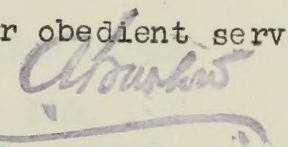
Gentlemen.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular No. 1/54 an Interim Report on the lines of the previous reports is presented for this year. It includes only essential or urgent matters, which have affected Public Health during the year. All records and statistics are being preserved so that the Annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

I have pleasure, therefore, in submitting for your consideration the following interim report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of Brierfield for the year ended December 31st 1954.

I am , Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.





## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1954 according to the Rate book was 2,549, the rateable value being £45,221 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £188.

The social conditions were generally quite good. The chief industry is Cotton weaving, with a small amount of spinning and dyeing.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### POPULATION.

The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1954 is 6,900.

#### BIRTHS.

87 live births belonging to the district occurred during 1954 as follows:-

|                           | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Live Births (Legitimate)  | 44           | 41             | 85           |
| (Illegitimate).           | -            | 2              | 2            |
|                           | <u>44</u>    | <u>43</u>      | <u>87</u>    |
| Still Births (Legitimate) | 1            | 1              | 2            |
| (Illegitimate).           | -            | -              | -            |

Comparative particulars with regards to live births over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

|   | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950. |
|---|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Total Live births                         | 87   | 99   | 90   | 94   | 90    |
| Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estimated popln | 12.6 | 14.4 | 12.9 | 14.7 | 12.6  |
| adjusted rate.                            | 14.0 |      |      |      |       |

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| (a) All Infants per 1000 live births                   | 23 |
| (b) Legitimate Infants per 1000 Legitimate Live Births | 23 |

#### NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| (a) Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age | Nil |
| (b) Mortality Rate per 1000 live births    | Nil |

Comparative Particulars with regard to infant Mortality over the last five years are given in the following table.

| <u>1953</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>1951</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1949.</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 30          | 22          | 10          | 22          | 19           |





MATERNAL  
MORTALITY.

- (a) Deaths from Childbirth,  
Pregnancy and abortion Nil
- (b) Mortality Rate per 1000  
total (Live and still births) Nil

DEATHS.

101 Deaths belonging to the District  
occurred during 1954 as follows:-

| Deaths within the  | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total.</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Urban District.  | 31           | 34             | 65            |
| Deaths outside the<br>District (In hospitals,<br>Institutions etc. | <u>12</u>    | <u>24</u>      | <u>36</u>     |
|  | <u>43</u>    | <u>58</u>      | <u>101</u>    |

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths  
over the last five years are given in the  
following table:-

|   | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Deaths                                      | 101  | 89   | 90   | 130  | 104  |
| Crude Death Rate<br>per 1000 estmd.<br>population | 14.6 | 13.4 | 13.1 | 18.3 | 14.6 |
| Adjusted Rate                                     | 13.0 |      |      |      |      |

The following table gives the ages at which  
death occurred, also the cause of all deaths  
belonging to Brierfield during 1954.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

|                                  | Under<br>1 yr. | 1-<br>5. | 5-<br>15 | 15-<br>25. | 25-<br>65. | Over<br>65 | TOTAL. |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|--------|
| Coronary Thrombosis              |                |          |          |            | 2          | 1          | 3      |
| Cancer                           |                |          |          |            | 9          | 9          | 18     |
| Cerebral Thrombosis              |                |          |          |            |            | 10         | 10     |
| Heart Disease                    |                |          |          |            | 8          | 31         | 39     |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage             |                |          |          |            | 1          | 3          | 4      |
| Pneumonia                        |                |          |          |            | 3          | 4          | 7      |
| Hypertension                     |                |          |          |            |            | 1          | 1      |
| Accident                         | 1              |          |          |            | 1          |            | 2      |
| Suicide                          |                |          |          |            | 1          |            | 1      |
| Senility                         |                |          |          |            |            | 1          | 1      |
| Sub Arachnoid Haem.              |                |          |          |            | 1          |            | 1      |
| Uraemia                          |                |          |          |            |            | 5          | 5      |
| Syphilis                         |                |          |          |            |            | 1          | 1      |
| Cerebral Arterio Sclerosis       |                |          |          |            |            | 2          | 2      |
| Intestinal Obstruction           |                |          |          |            | 1          |            | 1      |
| Respiratory Failure              |                |          |          |            |            | 1          | 1      |
| Haemoptysis                      |                |          |          |            |            | 1          | 1      |
| Cerebral Oedema                  |                |          |          |            | 1          |            | 1      |
| Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis |                | 1        |          |            |            |            | 1      |
| Encephalitis                     | 1              |          |          |            |            |            | 1      |
|                                  | 2              | 1        | -        | -          | 28         | 70         | 101    |

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TUBERCULOSIS.NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954.

| <u>AGE PERIOD.</u> |   |    | <u>NEW CASES</u> |           |                      |           | <u>DEATHS.</u>   |           |                  |           |
|--------------------|---|----|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|                    |   |    | <u>PULMONARY</u> |           | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> |           | <u>Pulmonary</u> |           | <u>Non-Pulm.</u> |           |
|                    |   |    | <u>M.</u>        | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u>            | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u>        | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u>        | <u>F.</u> |
| 0                  | - | 1  | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 1                  | - | 5  | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 5                  | - | 10 | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 10                 | - | 15 | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 15                 | - | 25 | -                | 1         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 25                 | - | 35 | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 35                 | - | 45 | -                | 1         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 45                 | - | 55 | 1                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| 55                 | - | 65 | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
| Over-              | - | 65 | -                | -         | -                    | -         | -                | -         | -                | -         |
|                    |   |    | 1                | -         | 2                    | Nil       |                  | Nil       |                  | Nil       |
|                    |   |    | 3                |           |                      | Nil       |                  | Nil       |                  | Nil       |

CASES ON REGISTER AT THE 31ST DECEMBER 1954.

On the register at the end of December 1954, there were 37 cases of Tuberculosis (31 Pulmonary and 6 Non-pulmonary) as follows:-

|                        | 5-15 | 15-25 | 25-35 | 35-45 | 45-55 | 55-65 | Over 65 | TOTAL. |
|------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|--------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis |      | 10    | 9     | 1     | 6     | 4     | 1       | 31     |
| Non-Pulmonary          |      |       |       |       |       |       |         |        |
| Cervical glands        | 2    |       |       | 2     |       |       |         | 4      |
| Testis                 |      |       |       |       |       | 1     |         | 1      |
| Both Legs.             |      |       |       |       | 1     |       |         | 1      |
|                        | 2    | 10    | 9     | 3     | 7     | 5     | 1       | 37     |

As all these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, we have no direct information about the number of cases receiving allowances.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this clinic.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no social workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Pathological Laboratory, Salus Street, Burnley, as and when necessary.





OTHER SERVICES.

The Lancashire County Council provide and maintain the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Urban District is serviced by ambulances from the Divisional Ambulance Station at Reedley and both ambulances and sitting cases cars are available.

Child Welfare Service.

The Infant Welfare Centre for the Urban District is held weekly under the supervision of Nurse Bush, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Midwifery Service.

There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

|   | <u>Per 1000 Estimated Population</u> |                          |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | <u>Crude Live Birth Rate</u>         | <u>Crude Death Rate.</u> |
| Mean of 5 years 1949-53                                 | 13.8                                 | 14.6                     |
| Year 1953   | 14.4                                 | 13.4                     |
| Year 1954   | 12.6                                 | 14.6                     |
| Increase or decrease in 1954 on 5 years average 1949-53 | -1.2                                 | -1.2                     |
| Previous year   | -1.8                                 | +1.2                     |

|   | <u>Maternal Mortality Rate</u> |                                       | <u>Rate of Death of Infants under 1 yr. per 1000 Live births.</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
|   | <u>per 1000 Live Births</u>    | <u>Per 1000 Live and still Births</u> |   |
| Mean of 5 years 1949-53                                 | -                              | -                                     | 20.3  |
| Year 1953   | -                              | -                                     | 30  |
| Year 1954   | -                              | -                                     | 23  |
| Increase or decrease in 1954 on 5 years average 1949-53 | -                              | -                                     | +2.7  |
| Previous Year   | -                              | -                                     | -7.0  |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)  
DURING THE YEAR.

| DISEASE        | Total cases | Under 1 yr | 1-3. | 3-5. | 5-10. | 10-15 | 15-25 | 25-65 | 65 & Over | Total cases rem'd to Hospital | Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to the District. |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|--|
| Whooping Cough | 30          | 1          | 3    | 8    | 18    |       |       |       |           |                               |  |
| Measles        | 57          | 2          | 11   | 17   | 26    | 1     |       |       |           |                               |  |
| Scarlet Fever  | 4           |            | 1    | 1    | 1     |       | 1     |       |           |                               |  |
| Dysentery      | 1           |            | 1    |      |       |       |       |       |           |                               |  |
| Pneumonia      | 2           |            |      |      |       |       | 1     | 1     |           |                               |  |
| Food Poisoning | 1           |            |      |      |       |       | 1     |       |           |                               |  |
|                | 95          | 3          | 16   | 26   | 45    | 1     | -     | 3     | 1         | -                             | -  |





SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Cleansing and Sewage Committee:- Chairman, Councillor T. Birtwhistle, Vice-Chairman, Councillor H. Parker. Councillors, H. Twist, G. Lindow, S. Atkinson, W. Atkinson, H. Berry, W. Duckworth R. Kinder, R. King, I. Wilkinson, W. Williams J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.Medical Officer of Health:-Qualifications:-Duties:-

Dr. A. Barlow.

M.B., Ch.B.

Part time; Practitioner &amp; Treasury

M.O.

Sanitary Inspector.

B. Duerden, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Qualifications:-

Certificate R.S.I and S.I.E.J.B.

Certificate R.S.I. for Inspectors of meat and other Foods.

Certificate R.S.I. Smoke Inspection.

City and Guilds Certificate Boiler-House Practice.

City and Guilds Certificate Sanitary Engineering.

Duties.

All normal Sanitary Inspector's duties

Water Supplies:-

Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of water from the mains of Nelson Corporation, and there were no new sources of supply during the year. The Water is of good quality and in good supply, apart from a few houses in the Marsden Heights area, where the supply is intermittent and a few houses in various streets where, probably the joint service pipes are too small. All the dwelling houses within the District except one, are supplied direct from Public Mains. The One exception, which is supplied by spring water, consists of a farm dwelling situated a considerable distance from the Public Mains. During the year the Nelson Water Dept. did a considerable amount of work in re-servicing of terraced property where the public supply was inadequate, 48 dwelling houses being re-serviced from new mains.

Supplies to HousesNo. of Houses supplied direct from Public Mains.

2548.

Extension of Water Mains during the year

New mains were extended on the Parson Clough Housing estate to the houses under construction.

WATER SAMPLING.(a) Public Supply

No. of Bacteriological examinations 9.  
Results. Satisfactory.

(b) Private Supply

No. of Bacteriological Examinations 7.  
Results 4 samples were quite satisfactory but in the other 3 samples small B. Coli counts were reported.

Sewage Disposal.

The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the Disposal works at the lowest part of the District. Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks, sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks, the effluent from the works is discharged into Pendle water. New extensions of sewers were laid to houses under construction on the Parson Clough Estate.





Drainage Etc.      No. of drains inspected during the year.      137.

Closet Accommodation.

No. of Privy middens.      Nil (The last remaining privy in the district being converted to pail closet during the year.)

No. of Pail Closets.      (At isolated dwellings) 8. These are emptied weekly by Council employees.

No. of Fresh water closets.      1365.

No. of Waste water closets.      1407

Conversions during the year.

|   |      |
|---|------|
| No. of pail closets to fresh water closets        | Nil  |
| No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets | 28   |
| No. of houses on water carriage system            | 2534 |

Chief Sanitary Requirements of District.      Conversion of waste water closets.

Public Cleansing.      This was carried out by direct labour with a three ton "Thames" Tipping wagon. Domestic refuse was collected weekly free of charge from private house, shops and mills and disposed of by controlled tipping on the Council's tip.

NO. of Movable ash-bins.      2818

Salvage Work.      Salvage work has been well maintained and the following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year.

| Weights. |     |    |      | Material    | Amount realized |     |     |
|----------|-----|----|------|-------------|-----------------|-----|-----|
| T.       | C.  | Q. | Lbs. |             | £.              | s.  | d.  |
| 121.     | 12. | 3. | 0    | Waste paper | 814.            | 17. | 3.  |
| 8.       | 0.  | 1. | 25   | Scrap Metal | 59.             | 4.  | 10. |
| 2.       | 9.  | 1. | 11   | Rags        | 52.             | 7.  | 9.  |

For comparison purposes the statistics relating to the last four years are set out as follows:-

| Year | Weights of Salvage |     |    | Total revenue |     |    |
|------|--------------------|-----|----|---------------|-----|----|
|      | T.                 | C.  | Q. | £.            | s.  | d. |
| 1950 | 260.               | 4.  | 1. | 1132.         | 2.  | 4. |
| 1951 | 205.               | 13. | 0. | 2059.         | 15. | 6. |
| 1952 | 134.               | 2.  | 0. | 1265.         | 10. | 3. |
| 1953 | 154.               | 18. | 3  | 871.          | 0.  | 3. |

Sanitary Inspections during 1954 (Including Housing).

|  |      |
|--|------|
| No. of complaints received             | 203  |
| No. of premises visited                | 1271 |
| No. of defects or nuisances discovered | 359  |
| No. remedied                           | 327  |
| No. of Notices served (Informal)       | 134  |
| (Statutory)                            | 13   |

Disinfestation.      There were nine houses disinfested during the year for cockroach infestation "Gammexane" Smoke generators being used.

Camping Sites and Movable Buildings.

There is one caravan licenced under the Public Health Act 1936 situated within the district. This is of a modern type and quite satisfactory maintained.





Pet Animals Act 1951

One shop was re-licenced under the Act, the premises being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

HOUSING.Condition.

The majority of the houses are in terraces, stone built and from 30 to 70 years old. The later type are brick built and mainly semi-detached. Many are owner/occupied and well maintained.

A recent housing Survey of the District undertaken during the year revealed that 1733 have baths installed and that there are 1407 waste water closets still in use.

Back to Back Houses

There are 18 such houses, the majority being extremely well maintained and in good condition.

Statistics.

24 Traditional, 2 bedroom type houses were completed for the Local Authority during the year, and a further 16 of a similar type are in course of erection on the Parson Clough Estate, also 20 one bedroom flats are contemplated. 3 houses were erected by private enterprise during the year.

Overcrowding.

There were no new cases of overcrowding reported, but at the end of the year 18 houses were known to be overcrowded this affected 24 families. There were 18 cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.

Houses required to alleviate Over-crowding.

It is estimated some 4 - 4 bedroom type houses 8 - 3 bedroom houses, 24 - 2 bedroom houses and 40 one bedroom houses are required. There are, however, many vacant houses advertised for sale in the district; the majority of owners being reluctant to re-let, in addition approximately 200 houses are now occupied by only one person, many being owner occupied.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- 1a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Act) 142.
- b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose. 348.
- c) Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation. 82
- 2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices  
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 63.
- 3) Action under Statutory powers during the year:-
  - (a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.
    - (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs. 9
    - (2) No. of dwelling houses which, after service of formal Notices were rendered fit.
      - By owners. 2
      - By Local Authority in default of owners 5
  - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 3





- (2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.  
 By owners  
 By Local authority in default of owners 3
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.
- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made. -
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order -
- (3) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings "Not to occupy" were accepted by the Local Authority 1  
 (Undertaking subsequently cancelled, after dwelling rendered fit)
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.
- (1) No. of dwelling-houses, separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made -
- (2) No. of closing orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit. -
- (e) Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936
- (1) No. of clearance areas represented 1  
 (2) No. of houses concerned in (1) 5  
 (3) No. of areas cleared 2  
 (4) No. of houses concerned in (3) 6  
 (5) No. of residents displaced in (3) and (4) 11  
 (6) No. of houses built by local authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders. None.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. No. of dairies in the district 4  
 No. of Inspections made. 12  
 No. of shops other than dairies 26.

| <u>Milk Sampling.</u> | <u>Type of Test.</u> | <u>No. of Samples</u> | <u>Results.</u>            |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
|                       | Biological           | 15                    | 14 negative<br>1 positive. |
|                       | Methylene Blue       | 15                    | all Satisfactory           |

Comments. Notice was served under sec. 20 Milk and Dairies Regs. 1949 on the dairyman concerned in respect of positive sample. The Divisional Inspector of The Ministry of Agriculture reported one animal removed from the herd concerned prior to his first visit and 2 animals removed and slaughtered prior to his second visit.

#### Ice Cream Samples.

8 Ice cream samples were obtained from manufacturers and retailers for bacteriological examination. The Laboratory reported 7 samples as satisfactory. The occupier of the premises where the unsatisfactory sample was obtained was interviewed, and advice given.

#### Food Poisoning.

There was one isolated case of food poisoning reported during the year concerning Salmonella Typhimurium; the foods involved were not discovered, although unwrapped sweets left and later consumed at the patients place of employment were suspected.





Food Premises. Number of Food premises by type of business in the District at the end of the year.

TYPE OF BUSINESS.

No. of Inspections made.

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| Butchers and Meat products shops                         | 15 | 24 |
| Fish and Chips Shops                                     | 6  | 12 |
| Bakehouses   | 18 | 48 |
| Greengrocers and wet fish shops                          | 7  | 7  |
| Grocers  | 32 | 42 |
| Inns   | 10 | 15 |
| Other premises including clubs<br>canteens and snackbars | 20 | 19 |

No. of premises where Ice cream is manufactured or sold:- 25

No. of Food premises registered under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under Local Acts

| <u>Type of business</u>                              | <u>No. registered</u> | <u>No. of inspts.<br/>of registered<br/>premises<br/>during year</u> |
|--|-----------------------|--|
| Butchers and Meat Products                           | 12                    | 24   |
| Bakehouses   | 7                     | 20   |
| Premises where ice-cream is manufactured<br>or sold. | 25                    | 36   |

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

|  | <u>No. on register.</u> | <u>Insptn.</u> | <u>Written<br/>Notices.</u> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) Factories in which Sections<br>1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced<br>by Local Authority.       | 5                       | 8              |                             |
| (2) Factories not included in<br>(1) in which Sect. 7 is<br>enforced by the Local<br>Authority | 55                      | 55             | 7                           |
| Total  | 60                      | 63             | 7                           |

Atmospheric Pollution.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| No. of Factory Chimneys in the District   | 5  |
| No. of observations taken during the year | 18 |
| Smoke Nuisances discovered.               | 4  |

In every case where excessive smoke emissions occurred, the premises were visited and the occupants notified and in addition routine visits were made to all Industrial Boiler Plants in the district during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

Poison Treatment of the Council's Sewage System was carried out twice during the year, and in addition the following infested properties were treated by the Rodent Operator.

| <u>Local Authority<br/>Property</u> | <u>Dwelling Houses</u> | <u>Business<br/>Premises.</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 7                                   | 29                     | 6                             |



